

EDMONDSON vs. TYSON, et al.
VALERIE J. HARWOOD

4:05-CV-00329
1/29/08

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

W. A. DREW EDMONDSON, in his)
capacity as ATTORNEY GENERAL)
OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA and)
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF THE)
ENVIRONMENT C. MILES TOLBERT,)
in his capacity as the)
TRUSTEE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES)
FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)

Plaintiffs,)

vs.)

TYSON FOODS, INC., et al,)

Defendants.)

4:05-CV-00329-TCK-SAJ

THE VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF

VALERIE J. HARWOOD, Ph.D., produced as a witness
on behalf of the Defendants in the above styled and
numbered cause, taken on the 29th day of January,
2008, in the City of Tulsa, County of Tulsa, State
of Oklahoma, before me, Bonnie Glidewell, a
Certified Shorthand Reporter, duly certified under
and by virtue of the laws of the State of Oklahoma.

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1 treated. And then if they do go to the hospital and
2 get diagnosed, it's very frequently often seems to
3 be foodborne rather than waterborne.

4 Q But my question is this. If people are
5 obtaining most of their drinking water from a
6 particular spring and getting sick from drinking
7 that water, don't you believe that eventually they
8 would make an association between the drinking of
9 that water and diarrhea?

03:28PM

10 A Yeah, I do. I don't know that, I don't know
11 even that that spring is one, again, that's
12 contaminated or not. We just went to it, you know,
13 as an example of the spring.

03:28PM

14 Q And I think this was asked, I came in late
15 from lunch, and I think that I Mr. Jorgenson asked
16 just as I was walking in, but I want to ask it of
17 you because I've been asking it of everybody, and
18 that is, it's true, is it not, Doctor that you could
19 not identify one single person in the history of the
20 IRW who has gotten sick from drinking water that was
21 contaminated by chicken litter?

03:29PM

03:29PM

22 A Well, again, that's a very daunting task.
23 People don't -- you know, epidemiology is really not
24 often done, but, you know, personally, I mentioned
25 we did not carry out any epidemiology tests.

03:29PM

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1 Q And you can identify no such person who has
2 become sick from drinking water contaminated by
3 chicken litter in the IRW; isn't that true?

4 A I can't identify any persons. We know about
5 the increase in indicator bacteria.

03:29PM

6 Q And, Doctor, do you know who it is among the
7 team of experts for the State of Oklahoma in this
8 case whose job it has been to identify such a
9 person?

10 MR. PAGE: Object to the form.

03:29PM

11 THE WITNESS: Can you restate that.

12 Q (By Mr. Elrod) Do you know whose job among
13 the expert panel it is to identify a person who has
14 become sick from drinking water contaminated by
15 chicken litter in the IRW?

03:30PM

16 MR. PAGE: Same objection.

17 THE WITNESS: Again, we focussed our
18 investigation on the known indicators of fecal
19 contamination that have human health risks. We
20 haven't tried to identify people.

03:30PM

21 Q (By Mr. Elrod) So is it your testimony that
22 no one on the expert panel of the State of Oklahoma
23 in this case has been charged with responsibility to
24 find and identify an actual person who's become ill
25 as a result of drinking water contaminated by

03:30PM